

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
APPL. NO. 10/618,768

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the Non-Final Office Action dated November 2, 2004, the Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Sterin et al, Schaefer and further view of a newly cited reference to Knestal. All other pending claims, namely claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-22, have been allowed.

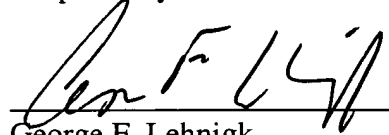
Solely to advance prosecution of certain embodiments of the invention, with this Amendment, Applicants are canceling rejected claim 17. In view of the action taken in this Amendment to place the application in form for allowance for certain embodiments of the invention, Applicant reserves the right to prosecute other embodiments of the invention in a continuation application.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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